



Rebuilding India

Habitat for Humanity India Quarterly Newsletter
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YEAR ONE
ISSUE FOUR

Editorial

No matter who we are or where we come from, we all deserve to have a decent life. At Habitat for Humanity, this is what unites us. Today Habitat India serves over 9,43,448 people across 20 states by building decent homes, sanitation facilities and providing relief during disasters. We could not have done this without you.

While we can celebrate the lives changed through our work, there is still a lot to be accomplished. Because of our past, we can do more. Because of our vision, we must do more.

In 2017 and in the years to come, we look forward to your continued support.

Let us create a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

On behalf of Habitat for Humanity India, we would like to wish each one of you a very Happy New Year!

Best Regards,

Rajan Samuel
Managing Director
Habitat for Humanity India

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Habitat for Humanity at a Glance

Families served

1,95,127

Individuals served

9,43,448

Homes built and repaired

1,74,771

Sanitation units built

46,926

States

20

Volunteers

10,17,465

People served through
Sensitise 2 Sanitise coalition

93,95,173

People served through
Disaster Risk Reduction and Response

1,78,314

All figures as on 31st December, 2016

Tata Capital and Habitat India build homes for the tribal families



Tata Capital and Habitat India team in Dahanu at the ground breaking programme

Tata Capital, the financial services arm of the Tata Group, has joined hands with Habitat for Humanity India to build 40 new homes for the tribal families in Dahanu, Maharashtra.

The families live in makeshift houses that are in a dilapidated condition. They do not have sufficient resources to repair their houses or build new ones. Through this housing project, Tata Capital and Habitat India are supporting 40 families with safe, secure and affordable housing; thereby impacting the lives of nearly 200 individuals.

The local community will also undergo Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) sessions on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) that encourages the use of sanitation units resulting in reduced or total elimination of open defecation. "Tata Capital strongly believes in its brand promise to 'do right', especially by giving back to society." said Avijit Bhattacharya, Chief Human Resources Officer, Tata Capital.

"One of the pillars of our CSR policy has been empowering sustainable livelihoods. We hope that, through this partnership, we are able to jointly improve the lives of a section of the community and work towards supporting leading initiatives by the Government as well."

Avijit Bhattacharya
Chief Human Resources Officer,
Tata Capital

Jacqueline Fernandez Expresses Gratitude to Orchid School



Jacqueline Fernandez with the students of Orchid School, Thane

In April 2016, noted Bollywood actor and Habitat Ambassador Jacqueline Fernandez partnered with Habitat for Humanity India to launch Jacqueline Builds – a unique campaign in aid of the families affected by Tamil Nadu floods.

Jacqueline visited Padappai village on 9th April 2016 and took part in a Habitat build alongside volunteers from several leading corporates, schools and the local community. The Orchid School, Thane had also contributed to Jacqueline Builds campaign. To acknowledge their support,

Jacqueline Fernandez met the students of Orchid School on 16th November 2016 and thanked them for backing the cause.

Dr. Madhuri Sagale, Principal of Orchid School said “It’s been a privilege for us to be associated with Habitat for Humanity India’s noble initiative. Jacqueline Fernandez and her initiative ‘Jacqueline Builds’ has given our students an opportunity to know India’s social reality. This collaboration is just a stepping stone of the long term relationship between Habitat India and Orchid School.”

“It is overwhelming to see the efforts of the students of Orchid School towards contributing towards Jacqueline Builds. I have been leading this campaign from last one year and it is a great initiative taken by Habitat for Humanity India to build homes for families affected by Tamil Nadu floods.

Each penny contributed by students will give shelter to all those in need and will enable their families to reclaim their lives. I wish them all the best for their future and hope that they continue the good work and spread happiness.”

Jacqueline Fernandez
Actor, Brand Ambassador,
Habitat for Humanity India

Building Healthier Schools for a Swachh Bharat



A. Vaidheesh, VP - South Asia and Managing Director - India with the dignitaries

On Children's Day - 14 November - GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals (GSK) and Habitat for Humanity India gave a special present to the students of Nashik (Maharashtra).

GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals and Habitat India are providing better sanitation facilities for the government schools of Nashik. In a dedication ceremony held on 14 November 2016, A. Vaidheesh, Vice President - South Asia and Managing Director - India GSK Pharmaceuticals, Dr Anand Bang - Health Advisor to the Chief Minister of

Maharashtra and Sanjay Daswani, Senior Director - Resource Development, Habitat India inaugurated the project.

This project will impact the lives of over 10,000 children studying in 5 schools. Sanitation units have been built in the following five partly government aided schools in Nashik:

1. M.R. Sarda Kanya Vidya Mandir
2. Sagarmal Modi Prathamik Shikshan Mandir
3. CDO Meri High School

4. Ashram Shala Velunje – Primary
5. Ashram Shala Velunje- Secondary

Habitat's work in sanitation space is aligned with the Government of India's 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' to eliminate open defecation from India.

“As a global healthcare company, we are committed to health and well-being of communities in which we operate. School sanitation is critical not only for health but also for education as it deters drop-outs, especially amongst girl students. We are pleased to support this initiative and raise awareness on the importance of health and hygiene in schools.”

A. Vaidheesh
Vice President - South Asia
Managing Director - India,
GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals

Launch of Habitat Young Leaders Build 2017



Rick Hathaway (centre), Rajan Samuel (left) and Narendra Mishra (right) inaugurated HYLB in New Delhi

On 5th December 2016, Habitat for Humanity India launched its annual youth campaign Habitat Young Leaders Build 2017 at the United Nations Volunteers Programme office in New Delhi. Rick Hathaway (Vice President for Asia Pacific – Habitat for Humanity International), Rajan Samuel (Managing Director – Habitat for Humanity India) and Narendra Mishra (Programme Officer – United Nations Volunteer Programme) unveiled the HYLB banner to launch Habitat's largest youth movement.

Habitat Young Leaders Build (HYLB)

2017 is an Asia-Pacific regional initiative that engages young people to volunteer, fundraise and lend their voices to the need for decent housing as a way out of poverty and toward building strength, stability and self-reliance. Launched on the International Volunteers Day on 5th December, HYLB culminates on 22nd April 2017 when thousands of young people across the Asia-Pacific region take the lead in building homes and communities.

“Habitat is focused on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 that states

'Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable' as well as SDG 6 to 'Ensure access to water and sanitation for all'. I welcome the youth to join Habitat Young Leaders Build and make these goals a reality”, said Rajan Samuel, Managing Director, Habitat for Humanity India.

“At Habitat, we once used the phrase today's builders, tomorrow's leaders to describe our volunteers and their excellent work in support of the vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Having observed the active participation of Asia-Pacific youth in Habitat Young Leaders Build over the years, I see them as today's leaders.”

Rick Hathaway
Vice President for Asia Pacific
Habitat for Humanity
International



Sheila Kripalani (Chairperson – Habitat for Humanity India, Board of Trustees), Rustom Jeejeebhoy (Member, Board of Trustees) build the model house

Mumbai: Habitat Board Members Build a Model House

Sheila Kripalani (Chairperson – Habitat for Humanity India, Board of Trustees), Rustom Jeejeebhoy (Member, Board of Trustees) showed their support to Habitat Young Leaders Build 2017 by building a model house at the national office in Mumbai. They were joined by Rick Hathaway (Vice President for Asia Pacific, Habitat for Humanity International), Rajan Samuel (Managing Director, Habitat for Humanity India), Sanjay Daswani (Senior Director – Resource Development), Janet Serrao Agarwal (Chief Financial Officer) and Mukul Dixit (Senior Director – Program and Operations).



Mumbai: Sacred Heart School, Kalyan Supports HYL B

“Every youth can play a part to partner with families in need to build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter. Today, we pledge our support to Habitat India and aim to be one among the millions of volunteers who are taking an action to eliminate poverty housing”, said Shristi Prasad, a class 8 student of Sacred Heart School, Kalyan.



Chennai: Training on Community Based Disaster Risk Management

Local youth from nine grass-root organisations of Tamil Nadu participated in the training on Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) organised by Habitat. The youth will serve as change agents to reach out to other communities in the region and train them further on CBDRM.

Daimler Financial Services builds with Habitat India



Daimler Financial Services team at the build site in Tamil Nadu

“With more money, we have no time to smile, but with no money this poor community is happy and smiling because we came together to build concrete homes for them. I feel extremely fortunate and blessed to be here and to work with Habitat India to build homes for them.”

Friederich Weick
CEO, Daimler Financial Services

Daimler Financial Services team comprising of 13 members from 13 different countries came together to build homes for the Irula tribal community at Keelalinjipattu village in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu. This Habitat Global Village Build took place from 16th – 22nd October 2016.

People from the Irula tribal community live in small huts made of thatched roof,

mud walls and floors. The sizes of the huts are less than an average of 100 square feet. There is no separate kitchen or toilet facility. These huts are not strong enough to withstand strong climatic conditions and it does not protect the people from heavy rains and cyclones.

The local community faced a lot of problems during the Tamil Nadu floods of 2015. The surrounding fields were

flooded and the families were trapped inside for several days until the water receded.

Habitat for Humanity India is building disaster resilient houses for 22 families from this community in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu.

Building Strength and Stability in North East India



“It was a big relief to move from the relief camp to a place we can call home.”

Pouheamlunglu Kamei

Pouheamlunglu Kamei with her family in Manipur

“The earthquake was massive. My family was completely helpless. All we could do at that time was pray to the God to save our lives if not the belongings. We could see the walls collapse, foundation sinking and the floors cracking”, said Pouheamlunglu Kamei as she recalled the day when Manipur was struck with a massive earthquake on 4th January 2016.

Pouheamlunglu’s husband passed

away a few years ago. She hails from an agricultural family and lives in Longmai 1 village in Tamenglong district, Manipur.

After the earthquake, Pouheamlunglu lived with her daughter and four sons at the relief camp for over 20 days. Her home was damaged and her children were scattered across the village looking for outside help. The family approached a local NGO in Manipur which directed them towards Habitat for Humanity. After

assessing the on-ground disaster situation, Habitat India decided to repair the homes of 51 families. Pouheamlunglu’s home was a part of this project.

“I never thought that my house would be repaired so quickly. This was possible thanks to the immense support from Habitat India. It was a big relief to move from the relief camp to a place we can call home”, said Pouheamlunglu.

Being a Part of the Change

Jonathan Reckford, Chief Executive Officer, Habitat for Humanity International



Editorial Team (ET): What inspires you lead Habitat for Humanity International?

Jonathan Reckford: Working with Habitat is a way to put my faith into action. What inspires me is seeing the transformations that take place in the lives of children and families who need the opportunity to improve their lives.

I was on a mission trip to India many years ago, working with the Dalits, and I saw how they spent their days — hand-cleaning latrines and cleaning up after dead animals. I learned that without some intervention, half the children would die before the age of 13.

Seeing children living in those conditions devastated me. At that point, I knew God was reaching out to me, and I was fairly sure I wanted to devote the rest of my life to helping the world's poor. It would be several years before I received the call to lead Habitat for Humanity, but my experiences on that trip were definitely a turning point for me.

I spent the whole first part of my career enjoying what I did but feeling a sense of restlessness. It's now been 11 years since I took this job, and I wouldn't do anything else.

ET: What is your most memorable moment associated with Habitat India?

Jonathan Reckford: One of my favorite experiences was 10 years ago when I visited India for the Carter Work Project in Lonavala (Maharashtra). It was a remarkable experience of bringing people together from 21 countries — and of creating unimaginable bonds between people who would become neighbors in the area where we were building.

I worked alongside volunteers on the homes of the Aziz and Subhash's families. At the dedication of the houses, each person was sharing. Then Aziz put his arm around his new neighbor and said, "You know, we're from different castes and from different faiths but now we're brothers!"

One of the great successes of Habitat is the ability to break down all social barriers and build bridges while helping people improve their housing conditions.

ET: What do you think about Habitat's work in India?

Jonathan Reckford: Our work in India is a shining example of how Habitat has evolved over time. It's pretty amazing to see what Habitat India was doing 10 years ago and to look at the goals and

accomplishments of today. Rajan and his team are doing a remarkable job. I am excited to see what the next decade brings.

The growth has been due to the shift toward community development and transformation. It's very important that we remain religious about our principles, but not our tactics. I was once questioned whether providing sanitation facilities would make any difference to families as compared to a new home. I believe that all our strategies — including access to water and sanitation — make a transformational impact on people. The 'Sensitise to Sanitise' project successfully demonstrates the scale of impact we can make by identifying and responding to the specific needs of people in need of adequate and healthy living conditions.

We know that if children are not healthy, they don't get educated; and if they don't get an education, they don't get decent jobs, meaning they won't be able to care for their families or break out of the stranglehold of poverty.

Housing isn't the only social issue we must address, but it is foundational in helping people achieve the strength, stability and independence they need to build a better future.

[ET: What do you think are the toughest challenges the world is facing today? How can Habitat for Humanity address these challenges?](#)

[Jonathan Reckford:](#) The news cycle is filled with stories about people of different beliefs and ideologies responding with violence and vitriol. I am concerned that the model our children are seeing is to lash out when we disagree, to condemn those who are different and to think only of self.

We also see a widening gap in socioeconomic groups, and working toward a world where everyone has adequate shelter is a prerequisite for solving many challenges that divide the “haves” and the “have nots”.

One of the great hallmarks of Habitat is to break down barriers and bring people together toward a common goal; people who might otherwise never have anything to do with one another. We must never forget that we are about so much more than houses.

[ET: What is your vision for Habitat for Humanity International?](#)

[Jonathan Reckford:](#) I want us to continue on the great trajectory that has been launched by our strategic plan. In fiscal year 2016 we improved

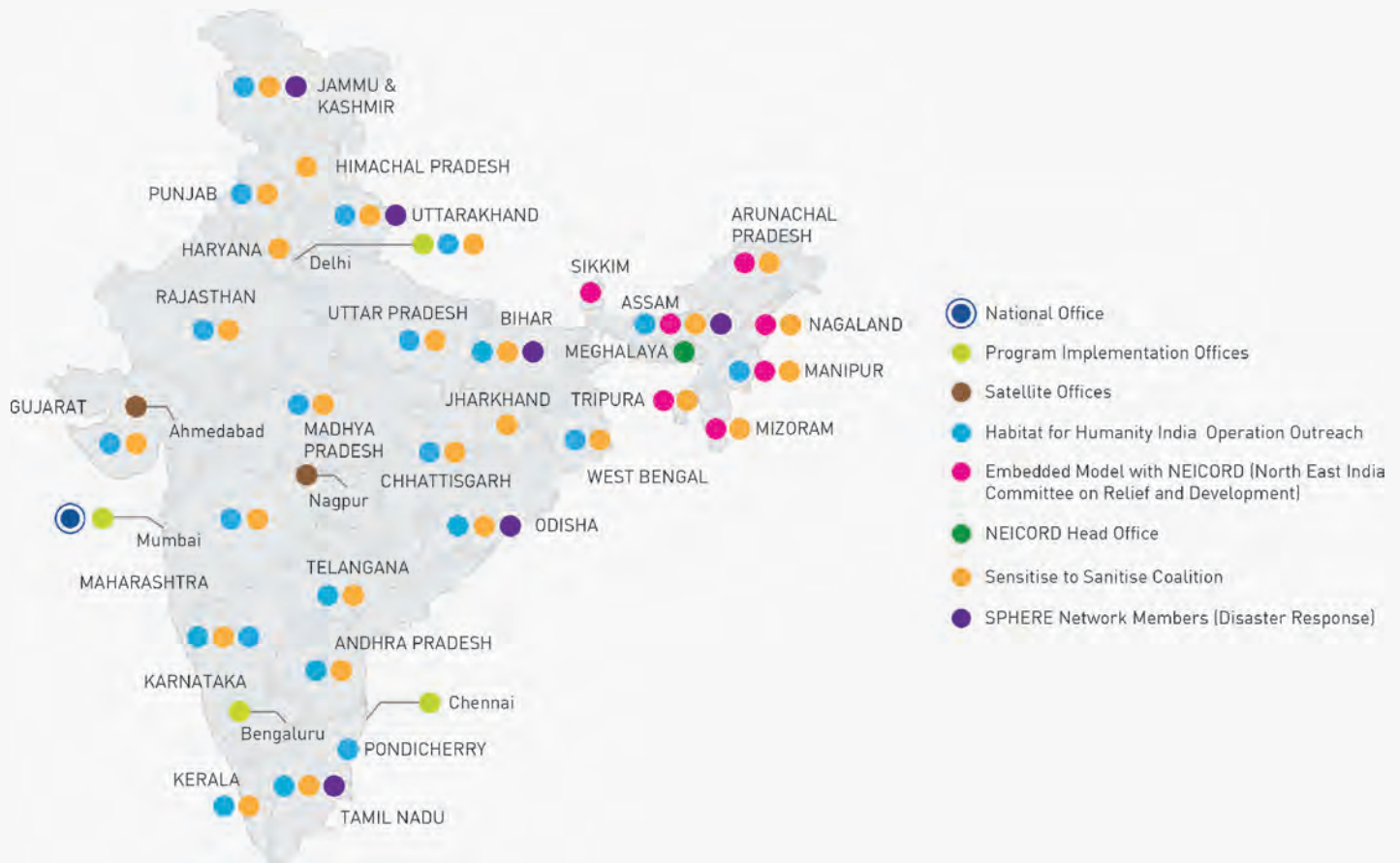
housing conditions in partnership with 3 million people worldwide. We will continue these efforts and want to grow our direct construction work with families worldwide by 50 percent by 2020.

Since the beginning, however, we've known that Habitat would never be able to build enough houses to meet the constantly increasing demand for adequate shelter. We simply can't do it alone.

We want to serve as a partner and catalyst to build strong families and transform communities. So we've broadened our efforts to involve more people and businesses that are part of the housing sector worldwide. We want to convince them to remove barriers and to make the markets work better for low-income families.

Last year, we helped 2.5 million people improve their homes through housing finance and we've already exceeded our 2020 goal. We're now going to expand beyond finance to help remove other barriers such as access to quality building materials and secure tenure. We continue to set and revise bold goals that will guide us in scaling up our impact around the world, and I'm confident that we will continue to move forward to build homes, communities and hope.

OUTREACH



Habitat for Humanity India's vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Anchored by the conviction that housing provides a critical foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty, Habitat for Humanity India works with low-income, marginalized families to build homes, to provide housing-related services and raises awareness for adequate housing and sanitation. Since its inception in 1983, Habitat for Humanity India has touched the lives of 9,43,448 individuals across 20 states and aims to support 25,00,000 people by 2020. The core area of our work is: Decent Shelter, Sanitation and Disaster Risk Reduction and Response.



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